

St Ives Business Improvement District

Grassland Maintenance – Service Baseline

Responsible authority: **Cornwall Council**

Head of Service: **Arthur Hooper** (Director of Cormac)

Responsible Officer: **Andy James** (General Manager West)

Service Provided	<p>Parks and open spaces are some of the most widely used forms of recreational facility, both by active users in sport, play and recreation, as well as by casual visitors who enjoy walking or relaxing in a pleasant environment.</p> <p>Overall, the Council's contractor, CORMAC Solutions, aims are to achieve high levels of stewardship in all parks and grassland, whilst embracing environmental good practice, thus contribution towards an enhancement of the quality of life for residents, visitors and businesses in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The service aims to combine both grass maintenance and litter/debris collection, to deliver a holistic, "single pass" grass maintenance operation.• A good quality finish, fit for the particular purpose it is intended. Upon the completion of the cutting operation, sites are left in a neat and tidy condition.• Environmental maintenance to control weeds on hard surfaces, such as footpaths, paving, etc. where cleansing operations are not effective.• Grass verges are cut on a four weekly basis (described as volume grass within the specifications).• To summarise, the majority of grassland is maintained on a 4 weekly basis with only a few exceptions.
------------------	---

<p>Number of Staff & Equipment</p>	<p>Method of Operation</p> <p>Grass maintenance is a highly sensitive area of work that requires sympathetic management with trained operatives understanding fully the effect the quality of the work has on the environment. The plant allocated to the contract is detailed in the plant list contained in the detail of the contract.</p> <p>In provision of this part of the service, we will ensure that all litter and debris is removed prior to the commencement of the cutting operation and that, upon completion of the work, the site is left in a neat and tidy condition with all arisings being removed from any surrounding hard standing. In addition to this, upon the completion of the main area of grass, all back-up mowing and strimming of edges and obstacles will be carried out on the same day to ensure that the site is well presented at all times.</p> <p>Operators will ensure that cut grass does not lie in 'clumps' on the area being worked on. They will be instructed to spread the cuttings evenly, thus not causing detriment to the sward.</p> <p>In naturalised bulb areas, bulbs in grass are provided to give seasonal impact. They require careful and knowledgeable maintenance to ensure that they do not degenerate over time. Plants must be allowed to complete their growth cycle before mowing.</p> <p>The first cut should take place at least six weeks following the completion of flowering but no more than eight weeks.</p> <p>Within some grass lands there are areas where wildflowers are encouraged, to increase the bio diversity of the site. These areas must be maintained in accordance with the 'Wildlife Areas & Habitat Development' section of the specification. All clippings should be removed from site. The area should then revert to the regime of the surrounding grass.</p>
--	--

Specification	<p>All grassed areas have been classified as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ornamental • Amenity • Volume • Sports grass (managed as per specification for volume mowing) • Low Frequency <p>Within the St Ives BID area only Amenity and Volume grassed areas exist.</p> <p>Amenity Grass These are areas of good turf where an above average quality finish is required. These areas should provide;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appearance of a health sward. • No unsightly weeds, litter, debris, clippings and bare patches. • To provide a welcoming and useable area for general parks use, including informal games and picnics. • Height of grass should be between 25 – 75mm. • All areas uniformly cut including perimeter edges and obstacles. • Paths and surroundings free of clippings. • Edges to beds should be maintained to provide neat, tidy and aesthetically pleasing perimeter, sympathetic to the site’s design. <p>Volume Grass This is the standard of management required for open park areas, estates, football pitch surrounds and highway verges. These areas will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neat, pleasing appearance with all grass uniformly cut, including perimeter edges and obstacles. • Free of all unsightly litter debris and clumps of clippings. • Grass height between 35-125 mm. • Paths and surrounding edges free of clippings at all times. • Use of herbicide for grass edging is permissible by agreement, but in compliance with neat and pleasing appearance. • Edges to beds should be maintained to provide neat, tidy and aesthetically pleasing perimeter, sympathetic to site’s design.
Performance Measure	Compliance with contract specifications is monitored by the Council.
Boundary Area	St Ives BID Area